Docket No. 2001-0048-01 USSN 09/300 137

said contact sheet; and

wherein said first and second electro-active elements and said conductors are arranged such that said device forms a generally sigmoidal shape upon activation of said first and second electro-active elements;

wherein said first and second electro-active elements are bonded to said electroded sheet with a structural polymer to form a sealed card, and

wherein said structural polymer and said two sheets of stiff strong polymer provide a bending stiffness sufficient to prevent deformation of the card to a breaking point and mechanical stiffness such that shear forces are efficiently coupled from the card to a workpiece.

REMARKS

Claim 55 remains in the application. All other claims have been cancelled. The one remaining claim has been amended to narrowly claim the present invention and to clearly distinguish the present invention as now claimed from the referenced prior art. None of the prior art discloses or suggest bonding of the electro-active elements to an electroded sheet of strong stiff polymer with a structural polymer to form a sealed card stiff and strong enough to prevent breaking and to provide efficient coupling of these forces to a workpiece in order to create a generally sigmoidal shape upon activation of the electro-active elements. The new limitations are clearly described in the summary of the invention and the abstract.

Applicants respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance in this case.

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Marked Up Copy

Applicants have attached marked up copy of earlier versions of the claims showing changes made of the claims as now amended.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Ross; Reg. No. 30,530

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March 24, 2003

Docket No. 2001-0048-01 USSN 09/300,137

YERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE For US\$N 09/300,137

IN THE CLAIMS:

- 55. (Amended) An actuator device comprising:
 - at least a first and a second electro-active element each in plate form and mounted between two sheets of a stiff strong polymer, at least one of said sheets, defining a contact sheet, having a thickness of between one half mil and two mil and being clad with an electrode material on both sides; and

at least a first and a second conductor,

- wherein said first conductor is in direct electrical contact with said first electro-active element through said contact sheet; and second conductor is in direct electrical contact with said second electro-active element through said contact sheet; and
- wherein said first and second electro-active elements and said conductors are arranged such that said device forms a generally sigmoidal shape upon activation of said first and second electro-active elements;
- wherein said first and second conductors are at least in part a part of an electroded sheet and said first and second electro-active elements are bonded to said electroded sheet with a structural polymer to form a sealed card, and
- wherein said structural polymer and said two sheets of stiff strong polymer provides a bending stiffness sufficient to prevent deformation of the card to a breaking point and mechanical stiffness such that shear forces are efficiently coupled from the card to a workpiece.

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* * TRANSMISJJON RESULT REPORT (MÁR.24.2003 4.J3PM) * *

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P : POLLING E : ECM > : REDUCTION